



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

DEC 17 2004

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
230 South Dearborn Street
Suite 3892
Chicago IL 60604

R-19J

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter dated November 5, 2004, to Mr. Charles Ingebretsen of our Headquarters office. I have been asked to respond to your request that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) look into the matter of the potential liability of the Suburban Moving and Storage Company (Suburban) concerning the Ellsworth Industrial Park Superfund site in Downers Grove, Illinois.

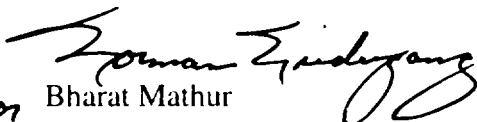
In 2002, based on the best information available to us, we issued notice letters naming Suburban and a number of other companies as potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for the Ellsworth Industrial Park site. A number of those PRPs agreed to help fund public drinking water hookups for roughly 800 residents whose drinking water was affected by contamination from the site.

Since that time U.S. EPA has taken further samples in the Ellsworth Industrial Park to help refine its information on PRPs at the site. U.S. EPA has done this work in preparation for the next step in the cleanup process; an investigation of contamination in the Ellsworth Industrial Park and an evaluation of cleanup options. Within the next few weeks U.S. EPA expects to issue notice letters to PRPs asking them to agree to conduct this remedial investigation and feasibility study.

As Suburban recognizes in its letter, "the EPA is still digesting the data it has collected and has not yet made any determinations regarding who is or is not properly a PRP." The letter asks you to urge U.S. EPA to move quickly, and I can confirm that the Agency intends to make those determinations within two weeks.

Your interest on this matter is appreciated. If I can provide you with any additional information or assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact our Congressional Liaisons, Mary Canavan or Philip Hoffman.

Very truly yours,


Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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cc: ORC w/control slip
AL w/control slip
Anne Rowan
ORA Reading File
Carolyn Levine, OECA